



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Environment Committee  
Public Hearing Testimony  
Friday, March 2, 2012

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Senator Maynard, Representative Miller, Senator Roraback, Representative Chapin and Environment Committee Membership:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify on House Bill 5262, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF CERTAIN TRAILS AND AREAS FOR EQUINE USE." This bill was written to amend Section 23-10e of the general statutes in order to protect additional trails and areas in Connecticut and I urge the Committee to act upon it quickly.

The trails that I feel the state must prioritize are Machimoodus State Park in East Haddam; Pauchaug State Forest Trails; Shenipsit State Forest Trails; Pequonnock and Housatonic Rail Bed Trail, especially in Trumbull, Monroe and Newtown; and the Roraback Wildlife Preserve in Harwinton. These trails are crucial for the continued use by equestrians in our state. Believe it or not, Connecticut leads the nation in the number of horses per capita. This industry produces about a billion dollars annually; no other trail user group comes close to having this kind of an impact on our economy.

I hope that the state of Connecticut will continue to support the present equestrian population that has contributed significantly to the state's history and economic growth. In protecting these trails for equine use, Connecticut will prolong its longstanding tradition of being hospitable to equestrians. I would hate to see Connecticut lose its major horse market due to the lack of available protected trails and areas for equine use.

I urge the committee to pass this bill quickly. The protection of these additional trails will help to insure the survival of Connecticut's equestrian industry. Thank you for your consideration and time.

DebraLee Hovey  
State Representative, 112<sup>th</sup> District